

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received NOV 25 1986

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic William Ritenour Barn - Byre and Bluff Barns of Doniphan County (TR)

and/or common Alvin Drake Barn

2. Location

street & number SE $\frac{1}{4}$, NE $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$, NE $\frac{1}{4}$, S16, T3S, R19E

not for publication

city, town Leona

☒ vicinity of

state Kansas

code 20

county Doniphan

code 43

3. Classification

Category

☐ district

☒ building(s)

☐ structure

☐ site

☐ object

Ownership

☐ public

☒ private

☐ both

Public Acquisition

☐ N/A in process

☐ N/A being considered

Status

☒ occupied

☐ unoccupied

☐ work in progress

Accessible

☒ yes: restricted

☐ yes: unrestricted

☐ no

Present Use

☒ agriculture

☐ commercial

☐ educational

☐ entertainment

☐ government

☐ industrial

☐ military

☐ museum

☐ park

☐ private residence

☐ religious

☐ scientific

☐ transportation

☐ other:

4. Owner of Property

name Alvin Drake etux

street & number N/A

city, town Leona

☒ vicinity of

state Kansas 66448

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Registry of Deeds

street & number Doniphan County Courthouse

city, town Troy

state Kansas 66087

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Doniphan County Cultural
Resources Survey

has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☒ no

date 1985

☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☒ local

depository for survey records Kansas State Historical Society, 120 W. 10th

city, town Topeka

state Kansas 66612

7. Description

Condition

☐ excellent
☒ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The William Ritenour Barn (ca. 1875) is located on the Alvin Drake Farm near Leona, Kansas (pop. 73). The one-story, three-bay, center entrance, vertically planked barn has a full byre with a limestone foundation and metal sheathed gable roof. The superstructure is supported by mortised and tenoned, post and beam construction. The barn has a north to south orientation, measuring forty-eight feet from east to west and thirty-six feet from north to south. The byre is built into the northern embankment.

The northern elevation is comprised of a vertically planked, double leaf, rolling door in the center bay. An earthen ramp leads to the entrance. The eastern and western elevations are comprised of two, tall, rounded, louvered vents on the threshing floor level surmounted by an octagonal louvered vent with an eight-sided star inside it in the gable. Three openings pierce the byre level below. The threshing floor level of the southern elevation is comprised of a centrally located, vertically planked, double leaf, rolling door flanked by two, tall rounded louvered vents on either side. Three stall doors lead to the byre from the southern elevation. The stone foundation is exposed on only the north and east sides of the barn. The barn is painted white.

The interior maintains its stall and storage arrangements. Tongue and groove partitions divide the bays on the threshing floor.

Originally constructed as a draft animal barn, the building is now a mixed-use barn. The building maintains a high degree of architectural and structural integrity. The significant alteration to the barn has been the replacement of the original roof with a metal roof. This is an alteration common to many of the barns included in this nomination.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates Ca. 1875

Builder/Architect Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The William Ritenour Barn (ca. 1875) is being nominated to the National Register as part of the Byre and Bluff Barns of Doniphan County (ca. 1860-1933) nomination under criterion C for its architectural significance. Constructed for William Ritenour, a native of Shenandoah County, Virginia who settled in Doniphan County in 1856, the barn is an example of a three-bay, center entrance, full byre, vertically planked, gable roof and limestone foundation structure with a threshing floor and louvered venting.

The eighteen nominated barns share a common feature in that at least one side of each barn's foundation is embedded in an earthen bank or bluff; the majority of the barns are built into shallow banks, two of the barns are built into bluffs. These vernacular wooden and cement structures span a seventy year construction period and exhibit various masonry foundations, skeletal structures, and superstructures. The byre and bluff barns of Doniphan County are an excellent example of a vernacular form of architecture which was built to take advantage of the hilly topography of the county. These barns are representative of approximately thirty byre and bluff barns identified in a 1984-1985 cultural resource survey of Doniphan County. The remaining barns are too altered and/or deteriorated to be included in this nomination. Most of the nominated barns were constructed for stock and dairy cattle and remain in active use on working farms. The relative rarity of byre and bluff barns in Doniphan County and the high degree of architectural and structural integrity maintained by the nominated barns make this thematic grouping of vernacular agricultural structures extremely significant.

Doniphan County (est. 1855) experienced a substantial population increase in the twenty years following the Civil War, with many settlers moving from Ohio, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and Germany. The barn building traditions brought by these settlers combined with the suitable topography contributed to the building of the byre and bluff barn type in Doniphan County. Most of the nominated barns are three-bay, center entrance, gable roof structures with limestone foundations, a full byre, a threshing floor, and a hay loft. There are groupings of period types, such as the board and batten barns with louvered vents from the 1870s and 1880s, the large, gambrel roof barns from 1910s, 1920s and 1930s, and the gradual transition from post and beam construction to plank framing. In 1891 J. D. Walters of the Kansas State Agricultural College called the byre (bank)/bluff barn an "all-purpose barn of the Kansas farmer" in an article entitled "The Barn," which was published in the Quarterly Report of the Kansas State Board of Agriculture. Walters described the bank barn as follows:

It gives a warm basement for the milk cows and cattle, and an accessible second story for the draught animals—for tools, machines, harness, and grain—and a roomy attic, or loft, for hay, straw, and fodder. In many states this form is objectionable for sanitary reasons, but in the dry climate of Kansas it is preferable to any other, unless there should be an unusually moist ledge directly against or under it...The building should be located so that the basement will be partly in the ground on the north and

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Item number 8

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west, and so that a low embankment, or filling, on these sides will give access to the second story.

While the byre or bluff barn presented a practical solution for Doniphan County's rolling topography, harsh winters, and high winds, it was not the most common solution. The byre and bluff barns built between 1860 and 1933 generally cost from \$2,000.00 to \$3,000.00 and while this may have been cost effective investment, it was an expensive investment. In addition, the higher degree of skilled craftsmanship required to construct a byre or bluff barn as opposed to most barns without foundations also hindered their construction. While the byre and bluff barns of Doniphan County are a sturdy survivor of a barn type built in Doniphan County between 1860 and 1933 they are not prolific, being far outnumbered by more inexpensive, rectangular wooden barns without foundations.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See attached sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property less than 1 acre

Quadrangle name Highland

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A 15 304420 4407170
Zone Easting Northing

B
Zone Easting Northing

C

D

E

F

G

H

Verbal boundary description and justification The nominated property is located on the SE $\frac{1}{4}$, NE $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$, NE $\frac{1}{4}$, S16, T3S, R19E in Doniphan County, Kansas on a tract measuring 68 x 56 feet, whose northeast corner is 14.1 feet directly north-east of the northeast corner of the barn's foundation. Beginning at the northeast corner of the parcel the boundary proceeds 56 feet south, 68 feet west, 56 feet north, and 68 feet east to the point of beginning.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Martha Gray Hagedorn, Architectural Historian

organization Kansas State Historical Society

date October 28, 1986

street & number 120 West 10th

telephone 913-296-5264

city or town Topeka

state Kansas 66612

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

 national state X local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title Executive Director, Kansas State Historical Society

date October 28, 1986

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I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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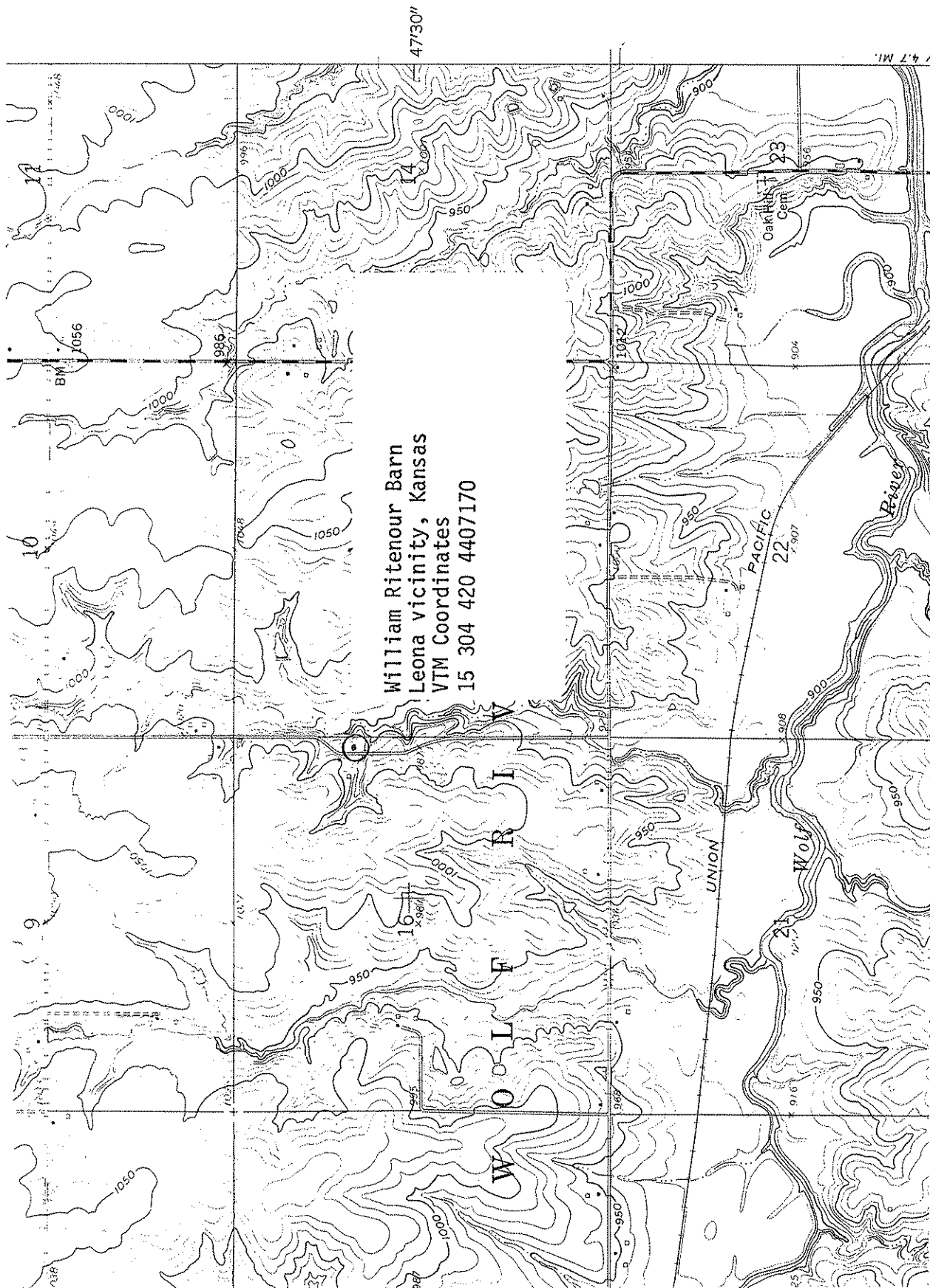
Continuation sheet 2

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- Walters, J.D. "The Barn," The Quarterly Report of the Kansas State Board of Agriculture. 31 March 1891.



William Ritenour Barn
Leona vicinity, Kansas
VTM Coordinates
15 304 420 4407170

47130"

Y 4.7 MI.

William Ritenour Barn
Leona vicinity, Kansas
Martha Hagedorn
July, 1986
Kansas State Historical Society
North & West elevations, SE view
1 of 5

William Ritenour Barn
Leona vicinity, Kansas
Martha Hagedorn
July, 1986
Kansas State Historical Society
North & East elevations, SW view
2 of 5

William Ritenour Barn
Leona vicinity, Kansas
Martha Hagedorn
July, 1986
Kansas State Historical Society
South & West elevations, NE view
3 of 5

William Ritenour Barn
Leona vicinity, Kansas
Martha Hagedorn
July, 1986
Kansas State Historical Society
First level (threshing floor)
East view
4 of 5

William Ritenour Barn
Leona vicinity, Kansas
Martha Hagedorn
July, 1986
Kansas State Historical Society
First level (threshing floor)
South view
5 of 5

